

P1 INCB 2009 Report Launch

P3 Economic Security of Women Migrant Workers

P5 Solid Waste Management



International Narcotics Control Board 2009 Report launched in Nepal



A press conference in progress in UNIC in connection with the launching of the INCB Report 2009. Photo: UNIC

Kathmandu, 25 Feb: In its Annual Report 2009, the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has warned that the use of so called “date rape drugs” is on the rise. INCB is also raising the alarm about new psychoactive substances which are easier to obtain and under less stringent international controls.

The INCB Report 2009 was launched on 25 February in Nepal amid a press conference organized jointly by UN Information Centre and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in UNIC by Mr. Shankar Koirala, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs. He spoke about government initiatives in dealing with narcotic drugs. Mr. Devendra Subedi, Senior Superintendent of Police explained on measures taken by Nepali law

enforcement agencies in tackling issues related with narcotic drugs. Mr. Olivier Lermet, Programme Coordinator of Nepal based UN Office on Drugs and Crime highlighted the major issues contained in the INCB Report.

The “date-rape drug” phenomenon is evolving rapidly, as sexual abusers attempt to circumvent more rigorous drug controls by using substances not restricted by the international drug conventions. “. In its Report, INCB calls on all governments to combat the misuse of pharmaceutical products to commit sexual assault as soon as possible and to be vigilant about the worrying increase in “date-rape drug” abuse.

UNESCO Initiative to Measure Literacy through Household Survey

Kathmandu, 25 Feb: UNESCO has started an initiative to assist education authorities in Nepal to obtain more reliable and relevant information on literacy in the country that has set Education for All as one of its development priorities. The initiative is aimed at replacing the simple question "Can you read, and can you write?" used so far in census and household surveys to assess the level of literacy by a more complex set of questions.

The additional questions are aimed at getting more accurate data, for example on how people acquire and sustain their literacy skills, and what prevent them to become literate and to ultimately assist better in the design of effective and relevant literacy programmes.

The UNESCO Office in Kathmandu, in collaboration with the Non-formal Education Center and the Central Bureau of Statistics, is developing the questions to capture such information along with relevant analysis and training materials. The new questions are planned to be included in future household surveys to identify target groups and design appropriate interventions for them.

With this objective a one-day workshop was held at



One day workshop held in Kathmandu. Photo:

Kathmandu with 15 participants from different organizations. There was an informed discussion and sharing on using the literacy module in household survey and the implementation modality of the process. The survey will be implemented with the coordination of the Non Formal Education Center and the Central Bureau of Statistics within this year.

The approach was tested by UNESCO in a variety of other countries on the basis of a Guidebook entitled "Using Literacy Module in Household Surveys" published by UNESCO in 2008.

Link to PDF version: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0016/001619/161938e.pdf>

UNESCO builds capacity for Education for All in Nepal

Kathmandu, 26 Feb: UNESCO's assistance to building capacity for Education for All in Nepal that is implemented in close collaboration with the Non Formal Education Centre of the Ministry of Education gains momentum, as information gathering and analysis on non-formal education in three districts will start soon.

The initiative, financed by UNESCO's Capacity Development for Education For All (CapEFA) mechanism, forms part of a package with two major components: the establishment of a non-formal education management information system (NFE-MIS) and a comprehensive assessment of community learning centres (CLCs) and the programmes they implement. The project also includes conducting a small household literacy survey with a view to assessing the real status of literacy among people to provide inputs for future planning.

While the NFE-MIS will be piloted in the districts of Rasuwa, Makwanpur and Rupandehi and later replicated to other districts across the country, the literacy survey will be undertaken in close cooperation with the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Ministry of Education and its relevant organizations i.e. NFEC, Department of Education, district education offices and community learning centres.

The project includes a variety of activities with respect to the establishment of NFE-MIS, conducting household literacy survey and assessment of CLCs and aims mainly at developing capacity of education officials at all levels, including institutional capacity development.

It is expected that at the end of the project, the NFEC will be able to systematically monitor progress in the area of non-formal education and literacy. Furthermore, a CLC operation framework will be developed based on the CLC assessment to provide policy support for further strengthening of CLCs to promote the goals of EFA at local level. Successful experiences gained during the implementation of the project would be documented and shared at national and international levels, especially among the countries of the South Asian region.

Capacity Development for Education For All (CapEFA) is an extrabudgetary funding mechanism and programme approach, financed by the governments of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Switzerland. It grew out of efforts to strategically support Member States thematic and operational needs and provide them with a more focused UNESCO engagement in the campaign for Education for All. **Links:** <http://www.unesco.org/en/capacity-development-for-efa/>



A district level consultative meeting. Photo: UNESCO

Economic Security of Women Migrant Workers (WMWs)



A training programme in progress. Photo: UNIFEM

Kathmandu, 28 Feb: Foreign labour migration has come as both an opportunity and a challenge for many Nepali women. WMWs comprise 11% of the contributors of remittance which makes 23% of Nepal's Gross Domestic Product . Most remittance from WMWs is used for paying back loans, education of children and household consumption . Foreign labour migration for many is a forced choice linked with survival of their family. With high investment, dependency on illegal agents and routes and no planning and training, Nepali women are exposed to abuse and exploitations before starting the journey.

UNIFEM has been working to protect the rights of WMWs and supporting their empowerment. Gender responsive innovative and sustainable policies on remittance can be an effective strategy to stop forced migration and the cycle of re-migration, which comes at high cost, especially for women. Towards this, "Economic Security of Women Migrant Workers" an IFAD/UNIFEM supported project is designed to generate necessary resource, voice and visibility among WMWs and the members of their families to engage and influence policies on remittance and reintegration and engaging them on enterprise development opportunities to ensure their economic security. This is an innovative and a historical initiative on reintegration and is expected to guide future policies and programme in remittance and reintegration in Nepal.



Closing session. Photo: UNIFEM

The project is being implemented by Nepal Institute of Development Studies, NIDS and Pourakhi, organization of returnee WMWs in 6 clusters and 19 sub locations of three districts Sunsari, Kaski and Kathmandu. The first training to 75 returnee WMWs and members of their families concluded in February 2010. Hopes were high among the returnee to generate livelihood alternative in their communities. The closing session was charged with high emotions where returnees demanded to respect their contribution earned despite pains in foreign lands and to create opportunities in Nepal where they can be close with their children and families and yet retain their hard earned dignity and respect.

UN Habitat Nepal felicitates winner of Children's Future Award



Mr. Girija Prasad Gorkhaly giving away the award. Photo: UN-HABITAT

Kathmandu, 28 Feb: UN Habitat Nepal in collaboration with GUTHI organized an 'Award Distribution and Felicitation Ceremony' on 4th February, 2010 in Lalitpur. The event was organized to felicitate Ms. Cheten Lama who won the Children's Future Award at 9th World Habitat Day Children's Drawing Contest and those who participated from Nepal.

At the felicitation ceremony, Deputy Director General of Department of Urban Development and Building Construction Girija Prasad Gorkhaly handed over Miss Lama with the award and certificate. Mr. Gorkhaly said that she together with the family and schools deserve appreciation for her success in bringing an international award to Nepal.

Congratulating the winner of the drawing contest, Prafulla Man Singh Pradhan, Habitat Manager of UN Habitat Nepal expressed that this successful achievement has proved that Nepalese children have potential to compete at international level. Anil Sthapit, Director of Guthi expressed that Cheten's success can be encouraging for other students as well.

Sharing the moment of success with other students and participants of the contest, Cheten said that we must bring behavioral change to build our city environmentally sound and healthy.

The drawing contest was organized by UN Habitat Regional Office for Asia and Pacific – Fukuoka, Japan among school children

studying in grade 4 to 6 to celebrate the World Habitat Day 2009, and the theme of the contest was "what we can do for our urban future".

Seven hundred fifty eight students from 7 countries in Asia and the Pacific Region including Far East Russia participated in the contest, and 12 students among them were awarded in six categories. Miss Lama won the Children's Future Award on behalf of Nepal by submitting her drawing of beautiful city and two hands, which implies equal gender contribution in the development of well managed city. All 12 award winning drawings are presented in the form of calendar and all participating students and school received a copy of the calendar.



Participants of the programme. Photo: UN-HABITAT

Municipalities of Nepal share successful practices on Solid Waste Management



Participants on the sharing workshop. Photo: UN-HABITAT

Kathmandu, 28 Feb: The national level four days workshop on “Experience Sharing on Successful Practices on SWM” had been organized by UN Habitat Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme Nepal and Solid Waste Management and Resource Mobilization Centre under Ministry of Local Development (SWMRMC/ MoLD) from 15-18 February 2010 to understand issues and challenges faced by municipalities. The workshop had been expected to be helpful to introduce and motivate municipalities to adopt cost effective, efficient and environment friendly new technologies to improve solid waste management at local level.

Speaking about the trend of progress of municipal SWM in Nepal, Ashok Shahi, Engineer of SWMRMC/ MoLD told that lack of adequate laws & legislations, weakness in institution arrangements, inefficient use of existing resources, lack of technology transfer & appropriate technologies are the major challenges in municipal SWM in the country.

At the workshop, a team of experts on SWM had been invited from UN Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) to orient the participants to different SWM technologies- being implemented in Japan, so that municipalities of Nepal could adopt appropriate technology to overcome SWM problems.

Sachiyo Hoshino, Special Adviser to the Director, UN Habitat ROAP, while speaking about the municipal SWM in Japan, told that 78 percent of solid waste produced is incinerated, while remaining 20 percent is recycled. Youiko Taira and Nobuko Hatano from UN Habitat ROAP trained the participants on cardboard composting technique, which can be applicable to manage

degradable solid waste at its source and reduce production of solid waste.

The workshop also shared various successful practices municipal SWM of Nepal, and discussed on the issues and challenges, the municipalities are facing due to unmanaged solid waste. The experts from UN Habitat ROAP, Japan also presented a paper about the SWM system of Fukuoka City, Japan to guide the participating municipalities in dealing with the problems related to SWM.

Thirty nine municipal staffs and other WATSAN stakeholder from 29 different municipalities and small towns of Nepal were introduced to various successful practices on municipal solid waste management during a four-day sharing workshop held from 15-18 February, 2010 in Lalitpur, Nepal.

UN Habitat is providing its support to MoLD/SWMRMC for last three years to build the capacity of municipal staff on SWM and to orient municipalities on climate change issue and clean development mechanism, as well as facilitate them in developing strategic planning for municipal SWM. The MoLD/ SWMRMC has recently prepared National Solid Waste Management Technical Guideline for Municipalities of Nepal. Similarly, the Government of Nepal has also drafted the New Solid Waste Management Act with support of UN Habitat. UN Habitat is further supporting MoLD to enhance the capacity of SWMRMC, and develop it as a lead government technical institute on urban solid waste management to support all municipalities in SWM.

UN Event for March 2009

8 March: International Women's Day

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/history.shtml>

Putting women and women's rights to equality on the global agenda is the moving force behind International Women's Day marked on 8th march. The idea of a day for women, celebrated all over the world, began at the beginning of this century in America and Europe. The focus was the movement for women's rights and achieving universal suffrage for women. International Women's Day really took hold between 1913 and 1917 when women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with their sisters. In December 1977 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.



21 March: International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/racial/index.html>

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination (resolution 2142 (XXI)).



22 March: World Day For Water

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/water/index.html>

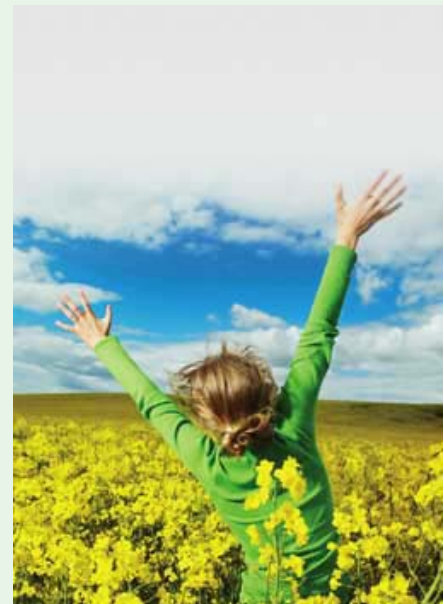


The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/47/193 of 22 December 1992 by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993, in conformity with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) contained in Chapter 18 (Fresh Water Resources) of Agenda 21. States were invited to devote the Day, as appropriate in the national context, to concrete activities such as the promotion of public awareness through the publication and diffusion of documentaries and the organization of conferences, round tables, seminars and expositions related to the conservation and development of water resources and the implementation of the recommendations of Agenda 21

23 March: World Meteorological Day

<http://www.wmo.int/wmd>

Every year, on 23 March, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), its 187 Members and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day. This Day commemorates the entry into force, on that date in 1950, of the WMO Convention creating the Organization. Subsequently, in 1951, WMO was designated a specialized agency of the United Nations System.



WORLD TB DAY 2007

INVEST * RESEARCH * ACT
TB is preventable and curable. FUND THE GLOBAL PLAN TO STOP TB.

TB ANYWHERE IS EVERYWHERE



24 March: World TB Day

http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/2007/

World Tuberculosis Day is designed to build public awareness about the disease. It commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis. His discovery opened the way toward diagnosing and curing tuberculosis.